

MINUTES
of the
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)
of
ARIZONA STATE PARKS
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2007
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FIELD OFFICE
2810 SWEETWATER AVENUE
LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.

Committee Members Present: Drew John
Mike Sipes
Rebecca Antle
Jim Schreiner
Pete Pfeifer
Hank Rogers
Sandee McCullen (arrived 1:50pm)

Committee Members Absent: None

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Amy Racki, OHV Coordinator
Troy Waskey, OHV Planner

Other Individuals Present: Ron Gould, Arizona State Senator
Joe Sacco, Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD)
via telephone
Ruth Lopez, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Bill Gibson, BLM
Steve Politsch, BLM
Jim Bowen, Havasu 4-Wheelers
Darryld Kautzmann, Havasu 4-Wheelers
John Savino, OHVAG applicant
Bob Biegel, OHVAG applicant

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Chair John skipped this item.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 3, 2007 meeting.

Hank Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2007 meeting as presented. Mike Sipes seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

2. Recommend New Members to OHVAG.

Chair John opened the discussion by noting that OHVAG would have three vacancies beginning January 1, 2008. OHVAG members were presented with candidate biographical sketches and applications with their agenda packet.

Amy Racki explained the voting procedure, which was also outlined in the agenda packet. There were five applications for the three vacancies. OHVAG will vote on which candidates to recommend to the Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB) for appointment. The ASPB ultimately appoints candidates.

Chair John noted that in the past four years since he was appointed, the group has become a focused working group for OHVs in Arizona. Chair John recognized Bob Beigel to speak on his application. Bob Beigel said that while he is fairly new to the OHV community, he and his family ride regularly. He is currently retired and is actively involved in his user group (the Mesa 4-Wheelers) as well as being an OHV Ambassador. He spoke on his experience in his past working life. He looks forward to becoming more involved with OHVs on a statewide level.

Chair John then recognized John Savino to speak on his application. John Savino is a member of the Navajo County Rough Riders and is an ATV activist who grew up in Parker. He has experience dealing with government agencies through his work. He is especially interested in the education aspects of working with OHVAG.

Sandee McCullen noted that John Savino applied as a citizen-at-large although he has a recommendation from a user group. She wondered whether John Savino could be appointed as a user-group representative instead. Amy Racki said that, in consultation with the Attorney General for Arizona State Parks, the feeling is that the OHVAG membership can choose to allow applicants that qualify for both a seat as a citizen-at-large or OHV organization to be elected for either opening. Further discussion followed on the deficiency of the application to make clear that the choice “sticks” when the applicant makes it. John Savino noted that if he had been clear on what was involved, he would have chosen to be a representative of a user group rather than a citizen-at-large. Amy Racki

read the membership policy as far as the make-up of OHVAG and the residency requirements as well as the mission of OHVAG. Mike Sipes felt that making the recommendation for membership rather than actual appointment enables OHVAG to choose how to distribute the applicants in this case. Sandee McCullen noted that the residency requirement is also paramount as far as statewide points of view.

Amy Racki suggested that the OHVAG vote on how they wish to deal with the applications. Mike Sipes moved that since OHVAG makes recommendations to the ASPB, if the applicants meet the criteria for both categories of applicant, then OHVAG should take that into consideration when voting to recommend new members to the ASPB. Hank Rogers seconded the motion. Following discussion of clarifying the application in the future and perhaps adding a category for a dealer representative, the motion carried.

Sandee McCullen noted that John Koleszar's application reflects an understanding of the OHV community and would bring a new and different viewpoint to OHVAG, especially in the OHV legislation arena.

Amy Racki then outlined the qualifications of the various applicants and explained the voting procedures. There are two vacancies for group representatives and one for a citizen-at-large. OHVAG will vote for one candidate for each vacancy and candidates will be recommended by achieving a simple majority.

Rebecca Antle achieved a unanimous vote as an OHV club member representative. Bob Beigel achieved a 4-2 vote as an OHV club member representative. John Savino achieved a 5-1 vote as a citizen-at-large member. These names will be submitted to the ASPB for appointment to OHVAG for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2008.

Chair John and the OHVAG members thanked Sandee McCullen and Mike Sipes for their six years of service with the Group.

Bob Beigel asked about the next steps in the process. Amy Racki advised that the ASPB would consider the recommendations at the next meeting and appointment notifications would be sent as soon as possible.

Mike Sipes moved that Rebecca Antle and Robert Beigel be recommended to ASPB for appointment to OHVAG as representatives of OHV user groups, and that the John Savino be appointed as a citizen-at-large member and that this recommendation be forwarded to the ASPB for final action. Sandee McCullen seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

3. Select OHVAG Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chair John moved that Hank Rogers be appointed as Chair of OHVAG beginning January 1, 2008. Amy Racki may also postpone the vote for Chair and Vice-Chair until the January meeting of OHVAG as the OHVAG did last year, in order to accommodate the new members. Mike Sipes seconded the original motion and said that he felt waiting until January was perhaps unnecessary as the departing members were more familiar with any possible candidates. Chair John called for the vote. The motion carried with no further discussion.

Mike Sipes moved that Drew John be appointed to serve as Vice-Chair of OHVAG beginning January 1, 2008. Sandee McCullen seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

4. Status of FY2007-2008 OHV Recreation Fund Projects.

Amy Racki updated the OHVAG on project progress since the August 3 meeting. She noted that the OHV Ambassador program has been enjoying great success. She also suggested that this item be combined with agenda item 7 regarding OHVAG's goals for FY2008/FY2009.

Troy Waskey administers the OHV Ambassador program and gave OHVAG the update. The OHV Ambassador program utilizes volunteers to increase the on-the-ground presence at (currently) three pilot areas in portions of Maricopa, Pinal and Yavapai Counties. Their mission is to spread the word on responsible riding practices, monitor the resources, and assist in completing "small projects" such as installing kiosks and signage. Troy Waskey went on to say that the initial OHV Ambassador training had occurred September 14-16 and was a huge success. The initial recruiting drive netted over 60 applications, of which 27 members were chosen. These 27 members went through a rigorous training program planned in conjunction with the land management agency partners over several months. Evaluations completed by the OHV Ambassadors (and input from the agency partners) show that the training was well received.

Volunteers have already been out in the field, as has the education trailer. Troy Waskey thanked John Young of the BLM for his assistance in purchasing and equipping the trailer. There have been several clean-up events held in conjunction with AGFD and BLM. The first bimonthly meeting of the OHV Ambassadors will be held the evening of November 13, 2007.

The program is gaining momentum through word of mouth from clubs and riders. In addition to the more than 33 applications from the first recruitment phase, OHV Ambassador applications continue to arrive. The

tentative date scheduled for the next training is March 7-9, 2008. The program will still be in the pilot phase at that time, so the focus areas are North Scottsdale, Lake Pleasant and the Middle Gila Canyons.

Troy Waskey also noted that the volunteers' vehicles are currently required to be "street-legal" and registered/licensed appropriately. Some of the volunteers are asking why this is important, if the volunteers will never be on any routes where it would be necessary. OHVAG may want to take the requirement under consideration and perhaps revision. Also, OHVAG may want to take into consideration the liability issues presented by volunteers with multi-seat vehicles, if "ride-along" passengers accompany Ambassador volunteers. Another liability issue to consider is helmet requirements and whether full helmets should be required for all vehicle types, including side-by-side Rangers. There is also the safety-standard example that Ambassadors should be setting to consider.

Troy Waskey continued on by saying that communication between the various land management agencies participating with the Ambassador program has been good so far, but there is always room for improvement. Troy Waskey went on to distribute Ambassador program manuals to OHVAG members (copy available on request) as well as informational flyers on the program. He wrapped up his presentation and update by noting that the program is successful and well received by both the OHV community and the land management partners working with Arizona State Parks.

Hank Rogers suggested that Troy Waskey contact "Wally" with Motor Sports Mania to make a presentation to the Ambassadors at their upcoming meeting, or at a future meeting.

Amy Racki asked whether OHVAG would like to discuss goals of the OHV Ambassador program for FY2008/FY2009. Chair John said that the Ambassador program is important to the state of Arizona for its work in educating OHV users on how to recreate responsibly. Mike Sipes asked for a target date to expand the program beyond the pilot phase. Jim Schreiner noted that Coconino County is the largest county in Arizona. Troy Waskey said that plans for expansion are underway, and the program may expand as early as September 2008. He asked that this discussion be a future agenda item.

Amy Racki said that coordination and communication with the various land management partners is a work-in-progress as far as program expansion. Mike Sipes suggested that targeting various OHV venues for weekend activity for the OHV Ambassador program, which might make a good start to expanding the program. Amy Racki noted that the partnerships with the land management agencies are crucial in

coordinating the OHV Ambassador program. One question to be answered is whether the agencies should apply to become the next tier of pilot locations. Mike Sipes says that, to a certain extent, the current volunteers would probably like to expand their own participation by working in other OHV areas.

Hank Rogers said that geographically, the northern high country in Arizona is swamped during the summer months. Expanding the OHV Ambassador program in that area during those months would make an impact.

Chair John noted that the idea of having land management agencies fill out an application to join in the Ambassador expansion helps create buy-in on their part. He suggested that a group consisting of current Ambassadors, Staff and perhaps OHVAG assemble to consider the applications, perhaps prioritizing on the basis of OHV usage occurring in a particular area. Troy Waskey said that he envisions volunteer coordinators within the Ambassador group that will step up in leadership roles for communication and scheduling. The lessons to be learned from running the pilot phase are being learned, especially as far as coordination and communication. He likes the idea of expanding the range of the current Ambassador membership.

Rebecca Antle suggested that Troy Waskey consider planning event presentations in the parking lots of major sporting goods stores, such as Cabela's. Troy Waskey also mentioned opportunities like the Sandrail Expo or other big events at the Arizona Fairgrounds or the Sports Complex. He agrees that the program needs to be marketed both to the general public and to the land management agencies. Chair John also suggested that buy-in from legislators is important. Further suggestions for events followed. Amy Racki discussed the sheer number of events that could be attended, but there is a need for volunteer coordination at the local level within the agencies to take on the responsibility for event attendance.

Amy Racki moved on to discuss the other projects. The statewide Dealer Packet Program is in a pilot phase; the next meeting will possibly in early December, but there are other dates under consideration. She noted that the BLM did not yet hire the staff member who would work on coordinating the dealer packet program. Mike Sipes asked if the funding for this position was part of the funding ASP provided to the BLM to help with reopening the public land information center. Amy Racki replied that it was part of that funding, and there are potential candidates. The hiring process is working slowly. Mike Sipes says that expectations need to be met, especially with regards to funding. Amy Racki said that there were three candidates, none of whom were completely qualified. This

automatically restarted the entire hiring process. The dealer packet program is moving forward nonetheless.

Amy Racki noted that the first motorized/non-motorized State Trails Conference took place over the first weekend in October in Prescott. The event was a success, with 150 attendees. Responses via evaluation showed that participants highly praised the event. She thanked the BLM for providing some of the funding for the event. The Conference was an opportunity for land management agencies, members of the public and participants in trails recreation across the spectrum to meet in one place.

The Small Projects program, providing funding for projects costing less than \$10,000, has received its first application for the FY2008 cycle. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest is applying with the support of Mike Sipes. Small Projects applications for FY2008 are due by the end of November 2007. Examples of the types of projects that can be funded are building trail connectors, signage, kiosks, and there may be applications to fund dust abatement projects around Maricopa and Pima Counties.

With regards to the Education Program, Amy Racki noted that she will again be working with the Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDS) to coordinate educational programs. The Arizona State Land Department will also help coordinate with the NRCDS to determine what they are best able to offer in the educational realm.

The 2010 Trails Plan is underway, beginning with surveys of motorized/non-motorized users, as well as land management agencies. The way the plan is approached is being reconsidered, with a possible split in motorized/non-motorized sections. Arizona State University is being contracted to perform the survey work. In order to have the plan completed on time, the surveys will need to be done in 2008. Amy Racki urged OHVAG members to let their constituents know that the Trails Plan survey is coming and that participation is urgent.

The Route Evaluation funding program continues with the BLM and USFS. Reports on how the first cycle went will be available to OHVAG as the route evaluation process moves forward.

Ruth Lopez of the BLM spoke to say that she is looking forward to working with OHVAG on the continuing route evaluation process. She was especially interested in the Standard Wash evaluation, which is ongoing. Amy Racki discussed the funding of the cultural survey for Standard Wash, which will help move the area toward being designated an open OHV area dependent on the cultural resource findings.

Amy Racki then provided an update on the Maricopa air quality situation. The county will hire approximately 82 new dust abatement enforcement staff. Dust abatement is the greatest potential issue on closing OHV areas within the county.

Amy Racki asked OHVAG whether a Trails Design Workshop for motorized trails should be offered in October 2008. Chair John noted that finances will play an important part in the final decision. Amy Racki said that this discussion should become a future agenda item.

Regarding the OHV Education Collaboration with AGFD, Amy Racki said that AGFD had hired a new Public Information Officer (PIO). This will be the person Amy Racki will coordinate with on this project.

Amy Racki noted that the legislature has invited ASP to make a presentation on the grants and agreement process. The final date of the presentation has yet to be set.

A goal for the ASP website is to become a true one-stop shop with maps, route information, and “everything” according to Amy Racki. Mike Sipes noted that information on the Travel Management Plan may need to be double-checked before posting. Amy Racki said that completing this process with the website is at least two years away. Most of the information would be provided via linking to more in-depth websites. Further discussion followed.

Chair John noted that as far as goals, the Travel Design Workshop is a worthy goal. The workshop should include information on how to start the process, how to apply for grants to build trails, and a complete overview of loops and other trail features. He noted that local government agencies should be urged to apply for grants as well as attending the workshop. He also noted that the Ambassador program and its expansion are also worthy goals. Amy Racki asked about the Dealer Packet Program, and the increased focus planned for FY2008. Chair John responded that some of the responsibility for educating the riding public lies with the dealers. Educating the dealers themselves and getting their buy-in will be crucial to the success of the program. Continuing this program will also be an important goal for the coming year.

Sandee McCullen asked whether the dealers are moving toward buy-in. Chair John said that the meetings to date have been good meetings, and he feels that even though the dealers may not be “looking forward” to participating in the program, they are moving toward seeing the importance of dealer-side education for the users. It’s a matter of protecting their interest in the industry. Further discussion followed.

(OHVAG adjourned for a break for approximately 10 minutes and reconvened.)

5. Discuss OHV Media.

Amy Racki noted that at the last OHVAG meeting there was a discussion of negative attitudes in the media about OHVs and OHV users. The OHVAG agenda packet included several examples of recent press coverage emphasizing a positive view of the sport and its participants.

Sandee McCullen noted that she has seen a more positive representation in the media, largely attributable to coverage of the OHV Ambassador program. However, she still sees a problem with the term ORV (Off-Road Vehicles) that contributes to the negative view. She would like to see the difference in language clarified.

Further discussion followed on writing effective Letters to the Editor as well as a more vigorous response to negative press. Chair John suggested that once the new members are appointed, they might provide a brief notice and photograph. This would provide a forum for an explanation of OHVAG and its mission. The same could be done to provide notice of thanks to Mike Sipes and Sandee McCullen for their years of OHVAG service. Chair John asked Amy Racki to draft the notices for Group review at the January meeting.

Chair John also suggested that members use the media to communicate with their legislators. However, it was made clear that OHVAG cannot present themselves as OHVAG members, but must present themselves as private individuals in this area.

6. Discuss OHV Legislation.

Chair John recognized State Senator Ron Gould in the audience. He then noted that the legislation as presented last year may be resubmitted, possibly with an enhanced education component. Chair John also noted that Amy Racki has been asked to make a presentation to the group meeting to draft the legislation on how environmental factors including mitigation can be funded through the ASP grant process.

Sandee McCullen said that she had met with the USFS (Tonto National Forest) the previous evening about a possible fee for users. Chair John said that because there are no laws at the state level, the federal government (in the form of the USFS and BLM) are having to step up to the plate financially more than they can bear. Sandee McCullen emphasized that user fees charged by individual forests could have unfortunate consequences. Bill Gibson noted that the federal legislation

governing the USFS and BLM permit them to charge user fees. Further discussion followed.

Chair John turned the floor over to Hank Rogers. He said that at the moment the state faces a budget “crunch” which might make passing the OHV legislation more difficult. Hank Rogers then asked Senator Gould to speak about his feelings on the OHV legislation. Senator Gould was instrumental in the bill’s failure last year. Senator Gould declined to speak at the moment, but did acknowledge that he was interested in what the OHV community had to say, which was why he attended the OHVAG meeting.

Sandee McCullen asked what the Group thought was necessary to bring this year’s bill to the forefront and develop broad-based support. Chair John said that he felt that the timing of introducing the bill last year made a difference. Introducing the bill earlier would likely have a more positive effect this year. Chair John also noted that the fees advocated in the legislation are user fees and not new taxes on the general populace, which was a sticking point last year.

Hank Rogers asked if the current source of funding for OHV projects, a portion of the state gasoline tax, could the OHV share be tied incrementally to the number of new vehicles being used as a way to increase OHV funds. Rebecca Antle said that at the moment there is a negative public perception that OHV use is supported by “big oil” and changing the gas tax in any way might fuel that perception.

Rebecca Antle asked about the numbers of OHV sales and whether this topic was in fact arguable. Chair John said that taking into account budget issues within the state and the high cost of gas, re-evaluating the gas tax may not be the most effective approach. He said that the two best features of last year’s bill were that the user fees affect only the OHV users and yet were not burdensome, and that the OHV laws in the bill would help with managing OHV use. The money to enforce the laws is also available through the bill.

Amy Racki asked about the legislative strategy for re-introducing the bill this year. Hank Rogers said that there are few changes since last year, but the final format has yet to be decided. There is work going on to ensure that the bill has a list of supportive sponsors in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Sandee McCullen said that a vigorous education plan for the legislators should be developed.

Amy Racki said that a good form of education for anyone across the state would be aerial photographs of the proliferation of user-created trails. This would be a graphic demonstration of the need to better regulate and

manage OHV use. She also suggested that education on the differing rules for OHV use that exist in the state now could also be of help.

Chair John said that he was impressed by the number of partnerships between users, land management agencies, and environmental groups that developed as a result of writing the legislation and working toward its passage.

Hank Rogers said that in his perspective he wants the funds developed through the bill spent only on enforcement and trail establishment. Dividing the funds as advocated in the proposed bill, as he sees it, means that agencies that have ready sources of funding are simply being given extra money that will not be used for OHV purposes. Chair John said that changing that portion of the bill would be a hard sell.

Rebecca Antle asked if OHVAG could develop some “talking points” on why the bill is important that could be sent out as an education effort. Hank Rogers said that he feels an in-depth discussion of the bill and how it was developed would lead to the talking points Rebecca Antle mentioned. Hank Rogers asked to have an agenda item about the legislation at the next meeting. Further discussion followed on education and educational points to be made.

Bob Beigel said that because there were Senators in Arizona that pledged not to raise taxes that opposed this bill, he wanted to know why and whether user fees could be considered taxes. Chair John said that when money comes from the pockets of citizens, it could be called by any name desired. He feels that the difference in the amount of fees to register a vehicle to make it street-legal would decrease substantially with this legislation. He also said that once a bill was passed, it could be amended later to adopt further discounts if necessary and desirable.

Rebecca Antle asked whether the current bill was based on legislation passed in other states. Chair John noted that this bill was based on current laws in Utah. However, one feature of the Utah legislation is that there is no reciprocity in the matter of permits/stickers to ride. An Arizona rider must purchase a Utah sticker in order to ride legally in Utah. One reason for this is that Arizona has no laws that similarly allow reciprocity. Amy Racki said that she had spoken with California’s OHV program “managers” less than a year ago on this issue of reciprocity. Currently Arizona riders may ride in California without a California sticker. This may be subject to change if Arizona does not adopt an OHV law that makes continued reciprocity acceptable to California. Further discussion of reciprocity followed.

Rebecca Antle asked if the gas tax revenue currently enjoyed by the OHV community would be in danger if the law were passed. The general consensus among other OHVAG members was that the gas tax revenues serve a purpose beyond what would be accomplished by abolishing the current system of revenue sharing.

John Savino asked whether the bill was designed to bring OHV sales back to Arizona from out of state. Chair John said that those concerns were taken into account but were not a major factor in adopting the current bill.

7. Discuss OHVAG Goals for FY2008 and FY2009.

Please note discussion under agenda item 4.

D. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

E. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report

Chair John had no report. He did emphasize that OHVAG and the OHV community needs to continue to work to develop legislator support for the bill.

2. Eagar Event Report

Hank Rogers began by thanking everyone for all the assistance provided to the Town of Eagar for the Jamboree. The event was successful and actually reached maximum capacity. Next year, the event will likely cap participation at 350 riders. Plans are underway for next year's Jamboree.

3. Staff Reports:

a) Update on ASPB Actions

Amy Racki said that the FY2008 budget was approved by the ASPB as noted at the August 3, 2007 meeting. The grants were also approved for funding by the Board.

b) Report on 2007 State Trails Conference

Please note discussion under agenda item 4. Amy Racki also distributed a folder designed by Tanna Thornburg regarding both motorized and non-motorized trails and the original contact list of conference attendees among other conference documents. (Copies available on request.) Conferences are planned biannually.

c) Report on Ambassador Training and Kick-Off Events

Please note discussion under agenda item 4. Amy Racki said that the Ambassador training was successful and everyone involved did a great job. Troy Waskey reiterated that the second Ambassador training was scheduled for March 5-7 and he urged OHVAG members to attend.

4. Update on Status of Travel Management Rule Activities

The Apache-Sitgreaves Forest will be having a series of five public meetings on the Travel Management Rule and route designation. OHVAG members and other interested parties are urged to attend to represent the OHV community.

5. Update on Status of BLM Travel Management

Bill Gibson of the BLM spoke on the BLM Land Use and Travel Management Plan (also known as activity plans) for Arizona. The Arizona Strip Field Office has gone through the Land Use planning process and is close to signing a Record of Decision. There were eight protests for the land use plan and those are close to resolution. The Record of Decision should be signed in the next couple of months. It will include route designations for the nearby National Monuments.

The Kingman Field Office is not currently in planning mode, and may not be for the next couple of years.

The Lake Havasu Field Office signed a Record of Decision on the Land Use plan five months ago. They are working now on a draft map of the Travel Management Plan showing proposed route designations. The route designations will “tier” from the existing Land Use plan. Sandee McCullen asked whether the route designations would change as subsequent phases of the process came “online”. Bill Gibson said that Travel Management Plans are meant to be dynamic and route designations are not set in stone. Routes can be revisited at any time.

Rebecca Antle asked about the levels of planning. Bill Gibson said that the entire Field Office conducts a Land Use Plan, which takes 3-5 years to complete. These plans are intense in their requirement for public input. The plans are good for 15-20 years and include all forms of land use management within the BLM land for that Field Office. The next level is the activity management plan, which is the Travel Management Plan, where route designation takes place and routes can be closed, newly opened, remain open as is, or be changed. These are also intense in their public input requirement.

Sandee McCullen clarified that both the Land Use plan and the Travel Management plan go to the public for comment and input. Rebecca Antle

clarified that the Travel Management plan and the activity plan are the same thing.

The BLM has not gone through Land Use planning since 20 years ago. Although the USFS is speeding up their process in order to be completed by 2009, the BLM is not expecting to complete their process until 2012. Therefore, they are looking at the areas covered by Field Offices by breaking them down into regions, which are more manageable.

A member of the public asked about the Bullhead Unit plan, and whether that unit will be completed before moving onto the Lake Havasu Unit. Bill Gibson said that each unit's plan will be completed before moving onto the next, including the public comment phase.

Mike Sipes asked whether anyone who files an appeal has to "have standing". Bill Gibson replied that the Department of Interior (the overarching agency that hears the appeals) has ruled that anyone making an appeal must have standing, meaning they must have been involved in the process along the way. No one can appeal a decision without having been previously involved. However, the hearing judges have a certain amount of leeway.

Bill Gibson continued by saying that the Yuma Field Office will be publishing their final Environmental Impact Study in January and will be prepared for protest phase. Protests are filed with the Director of the BLM. The Yuma Field Office is also beginning the Travel Management process in the La Posa area. Public meetings will begin in February.

The Tucson Field Office will publish route designations as part of a Resource Management plan for their individual units in either January or February. There is the usual 30-day protest period, followed by a 30-day appeal process for the route designations. The Middle Gila Canyons Travel Management plan has been delayed, but should be available in the next month or two. Sandee McCullen mentioned the proposed landfill in the area, and the need for another evaluation.

The Safford Field Office's plan will take place in the next year or so, with the exception of the Aravaipa Ecosystem Plan, which will be out this year. There will be route designations in the Aravaipa Canyon included in that plan. That plan will be available in the next six months or so, followed by the 30-day appeal process. Amy Racki noted that the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) also contains information on how the BLM plans and the protest and appeals processes work. She will provide OHVAG with that information.

The Phoenix Field Office and the Hassayampa Field Office draft plans will be published in the spring of 2008. That plan will have proposed route designations on the Agua Fria National Monument and the Altair National Monument.

The Lower Sonoran Field Office will publish a draft plan that includes the Sonoran Desert National Monument. Bill Gibson noted that with all the plans, it's extremely important for the public to be involved in the process.

Information on all the plans should be available on the BLM website as soon as possible.

Sandee McCullen asked about a rumor she's heard about the BLM and USFS combining their Travel Management plan process. Bill Gibson replied that he had not heard the rumor.

6. Arizona Game & Fish Outdoor Expo and New PIO

Joe Sacco said that the Arizona Game & Fish Department hosts an Outdoor Expo annually. The next Expo is planned for March 28-30, 2008, which will likely be attended by approximately 30-40,000 people. It's a family-oriented event that contains an OHV component along with the hunting, fishing and archery components. Non-profits and State Agencies are encouraged to set up a booth, and AGFD offers a packet with information. It's a good way to interact with a wide sector of the public. The Expo in 2008 will be at the Ben Avery facility.

Sandee McCullen asked about a demo or training trail to be set up at the event. Joe Sacco said that dealers set up riding opportunities, in general. There will some youth-oriented activities planned, especially on Friday. Further discussion followed on the Expo events. Further information will be disseminated through Staff.

Joe Sacco also noted that the AGFD has hired a new PIO, Jim Harkin. He is on the "learning curve" now, and looks forward to working with OHVAG and meeting everyone. Amy Racki asked if Jim Harkin would be re-starting the newsletter that had been earlier available. Joe Sacco said a newsletter was planned.

F. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

G. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Future agenda items: questions on liability and the OHV Ambassador program, OHV Ambassador program expansion, possible trail design workshop including financing trail building, OHV legislation update.

The Field Trip planned for tomorrow will take place at the Standard Wash beginning at 8:30am. Participants should meet at the location then.

H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Amy Racki asked that the calendar of meetings for the year be set at this time. The membership agreed that Fridays at 1:00pm are a good time to meet. Sandee McCullen suggested having the annual Field Trip in the spring; Rebecca Antle suggested having two Field Trips during the year.

They set the calendar as follows:

February 1, 2008, 1:00pm, in Phoenix at the ASP offices

May 2, 2008, 1:00pm, in Phoenix as part of the joint ASCOT-OHVAG meeting

August 8, 2008, 1:00pm, in Payson at a location to be determined

November 7, 2008, 1:00pm, in Eagar at a location to be determined

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.